

UNCLASSIFIED

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O R 291926Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1319
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
JSMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

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E.O. 12065: GDS 6/29/85 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JUNE 28, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5055

1. (U) INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: THE SIGNIFICANT NEWS
OF THIS WEEK IS THAT NUMBERS OF PEN PRISONERS ARE BEING
RELEASED BUT, FOR REASONS WE DO NOT YET KNOW, THESE RE-
LEASES ARE NOT BEING PUBLISHED AS BEFORE. IN A SEPARATE
TELEGRAM WE DESCRIBE REPORTS OF 112 RELEASES OR PROSPECTIVE
RELEASES WITHIN THE PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS. THIS DOES
HOWEVER PLAY HOB WITH PEN STATISTICS THE EMBASSY MAIN-
TAINED BY ADDING TO AND SUBTRACTING FROM LISTS WE HELD
BASING THESE ENTRIES ON OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS. ALREADY
THERE WAS DISCREPANCY OF SOME 350 BETWEEN OUR ESTIMATES

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AND AN OFFHAND ESTIMATE GIVEN EMBOFF BY COL. SAN ROMAN
OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY--SAN ROMAN'S FIGURES WERE LOWER,

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INDICATING THAT SIGNIFICANT UNRECORDED RELEASES MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THEY COMMENCED COMING TO OUR ATTENTION. EMBOFFS ARE SEEKING INTERVIEWS NEXT WEEK TO COME UP WITH ANNEX PEN FIGURE..

2. (U) ALSO REPORTED SEPARATELY (BUENOS AIRES 5223) WERE 13 NAMES OF PERSONS RECENTLY GRANTED RIGHT OF OPTION FOR THE UNITED STATES. THESE ARE IN ADDITION TO SIX PERSONS WHO BY ARGENTINE COUNT ALSO RECEIVED OPTION TO SETTLE IN THE UNITED STATES. (THREE WERE BY ARGENTINE COUNT AND OURS "OPTIONED", WHILE ONE- [REDACTED] WAS AN IMMIGRANT PREFERENCE CASE UNDER OUR COUNT AND TWO- [REDACTED] ARE UNITED STATES CITIZENS.)

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3. [REDACTED] THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THIS MESSAGE RECAPITULATES THE NUMBER OF DISAPPEARED REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY THUS FAR THIS CALENDAR YEAR. IT STANDS NOW AT 25, WITH SOME RECORDINGS ADMITTEDLY DUBIOUS. GENERAL VIOLA, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE OF 17 DISAPPEARANCES. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

4. (U) JUDGE DELVING INTO DISAPPEARANCE OF SZNAIDER ET AL -----

THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REPORTED IN A FRONT PAGE STORY ON JUNE 27 THAT FEDERAL JUDGE LEON C. ARSALANIAN ON MAY 31 CALLED WITNESSES IN THE DISAPPEARANCE CASE OF JORGE V. SZNAIDER AND FIVE COMPANIONS (SEE BUENOS AIRES 4082). MRS. SZNAIDER HAD PREVIOUSLY FILED A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION BEFORE JUDGE BONIFATI ON MAY 15, WHICH WAS REJECTED THREE DAYS LATER. GATHERING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ABDUCTION, [REDACTED]
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MRS. SZNAIDER FILED ANOTHER HABEAS CORPUS WRIT ON MAY 31. THE WITNESSES CALLED WERE THE PORTERO IN THE BUILDING FROM WHERE THE SIX WERE ABDUCTED, POLICE OFFICERS, THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD AND MRS. SZNAIDER. MRS. SZNAIDER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE SIX HAD FORMED A WRITERS' WORKSHOP, AND THE WRITING THAT THEY HAD DONE WAS TAKEN WHEN THEY WERE KIDNAPPED. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD GONE THROUGH THEIR SON'S WORK AT HOME AND WERE SATISFIED THAT HIS WORK WAS COMPLETELY NONPOLITICAL.

5. (U) JUDGE SEEKING INFORMATION ON US INTEREST CASE -----
ON JUNE 25 CRONICA CARRIED AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT JUDGE CARLOS

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OLIVERI IS INVESTIGATION AN ACCUSATION OF ILLEGAL DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY IN THE CASE OF EDUARDO MIGUEL O'NEIL(L) (EMBASSY CASE NO. 94/77/9) WHO DISAPPEARED AFTER HAVING BEEN KIDNAPPED. THE ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT GIVE ANY DATES, HOWEVER EMBASSY FILES REVEAL THAT DR. O'NEILL WAS ABDUCTED ON 9/9/77 BY A GROUP OF ARMED MEN. DR. O'NEILL IS AN INTEREST CASE BY CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL, SEN. MOYNIHAN, AND THE CANCER CONGRESS. EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY MADE TWO REQUESTS TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON 11/10/77 AND 3/10/78, TO WHICH NEGATIVE REPLIES WERE RECEIVED.

6. (U) INTEREST GROUP FORMED TO LOOK INTO DISAPPEARANCES OF WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS -----

THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD ON JUNE 26 REPORTED THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED BY RELATIVES OF MISSING JOURNALISTS. THEY HAVE COMPILED A LIST OF 63 PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED SINCE THE 1976 MILITARY COUP AND WHO WORKED AS WRITERS OR AS JOURNALISTS. THE HERALD, WHICH PRINTED THE LIST, REPORTED THAT THE GROUP WAS ALSO TRYING TO HAVE IT PUBLISHED IN A LOCAL SPANISH DAILY "ALONG WITH AN APPEAL TO PUBLIC OPINION TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR 'SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE.'" THE GROUP ALSO REPORTED THAT OVER 400 JOURNALISTS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY SINCE THE 1976 TAKEOVER. EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN ALL BUT THREE OF THE PERSONS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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LISTED IN THE HERALD ARTICLE. THE THREE ARE: CASADIDIO, ALDO NESTOR, DISAPPEARED 12/7/76; OSTERHELD, HECTOR HERMAN, DISAPPEARED 6/77; AND SERUCO, BARBA LUIS, DISAPPEARANCE DATE UNKNOWN.

7. (U) FRENCH NURSE RELEASED -----

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A FRENCH CITIZEN, VIVIANE JACOB, HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND RELEASED IN ADVANCE THROUGH A MEASURE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA ON TUESDAY JUNE 19. MS. JACOB WAS ARRESTED ON DECEMBER 24, 1975 ON CHARGES OF ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION AND PROPAGANDIZATION. SHE WAS ALSO CHARGED

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WITH BEING PART OF A MEDICAL UNIT OF THE MONTONERO
MOVEMENT. (NOTE: EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATE THAT MS.
JACOB WAS SENTENCED IN 1977 TO FOUR YEARS IN JAIL ON
CHARGES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN ERP.)

8. (U) IACHR VISIT CONFIRMED FOR SEPTEMBER -----
THE ARGENTINE PRESS OF THE 26TH AND 27TH CARRIED
WASHINGTON DATELINED STORIES THAT THE INVESTIGATION BY
THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
OAS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM SEPTEMBER 6 UNTIL THE 20TH,
HEADED BY FORMER VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE ANDRES
AGUILAR.

9. (U) PRELATES SPEAK -----
TWO PROMINENT CHURCH DIGNITARIES MADE MAJOR PRONOUNCE-
MENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY SEEMED TO START IN DIFFERENT
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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DIRECTIONS. MONS. MIGUEL MEDINA, BISHOP OF TUCUMAN,
ANSWERED A MESSAGE FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION--
PRESUMABLY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL--STATING THAT "IN MY
COUNTRY THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL KIDNAPPINGS." HE ALSO
INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOT BE BLAMED FOR

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ALL THE DISAPPEARANCES. ON THE OTHER HAND, RAUL CARDINAL PRIMATESTA, BISHOP OF CORDOBA, IN EFFECT WARNED THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE RISK OF "CONFUSING NATIONAL SECURITY WITH THE SECURITY OF THE STATE." THESE STATEMENTS WERE GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY, BUT NO ATTEMPT AT ELABORATION WAS MADE.

10. (U) MORE PRE-JUNTA CRIMINALS SENTENCES -----

THE ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTS THAT

(A) ON JUNE 22, ERNESTO FERNANDO VILLANUEVA, A 34 YEAR OLD ARGENTINE SOCIOLOGIST, WAS SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON AND LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS ON CHARGES OF POSSESSION OF ARMS, MUNITIONS, EXPLOSIVES, AND FALSE IDENTITY PAPERS. MR. VILLANUEVA WAS ARRESTED IN MARCH OF 1975.

(B) RETIRED COL. MARIANO CARTAGO SMITH WAS FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON FOR MASTERMINDING THE 1975 KIDNAPPING OF AN ARGENTINE BUSINESSMAN. IN ADDITION, ACCOMPLICES RAMON MARCELINO RODRIGUEZ AND FELIPE EDUARDO ACA WERE SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS EACH, JOSE MARIA VIERA AND CLAUDIO PATRICIO VARELA TO FIVE AND A HALF YEARS EACH, AND MARIA DE LAS MERCEDES MORALES DE RIVERO TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON.

(C) TWO "TERRORISTS" WERE SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS AND THREE AND A HALF YEARS EACH IN PRISON IN PARANA. MARIA DEL CARMEN OVALLE DETAINED IN SANTA FE IN 1975, AND HER NEPHEW, ANGEL EDGARDO DIAZ, ALSO DETAINED IN 1975 WERE FOUND GUILTY OF POSSESSION OF SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE. MS. OVALLE WAS GIVEN A MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR BEING

[REDACTED]

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RESIDENT IN A HOUSE (ALTHOUGH ABSENT AT THE TIME) WHERE THE SECURITY FORCES SEARCHED AND FOUND THE LITERATURE. HER NEPHEW WAS SENTENCED TO A LESSER SENTENCE FOR BEING RESIDENT AND CARETAKER OF THE HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE SECURITY FORCE SWEEP. MR. DIAZ HAS BEEN SET FREE, HIS PREVIOUS TIME SERVED TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN THE SAME CASE, THE JUDGE IS SEEKING THE EXTRADITION OF LAWYER JOSE LEONARDO ACOSTA, PRESENTLY RESIDENT IN MEXICO, ON CHARGES OF HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CASE. (NOTE: ACOSTA'S NAME FIGURES ON A LIST SUBMITTED BY THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION AS A DETAINEE HERE IN ARGENTINA.)

11. (U) CHARGES AGAINST POLICE -----

(A) PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT TWO POLICE OFFICERS SERVING AS WARDENS OF WOMEN PRISONERS IN SANTA FE PROVINCE ARE

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BEING HELD FOR ARRAIGNMENT BECAUSE OF A COMPLAINT BY A WOMAN PRISONER, 7LEMA CARMEN MARTINEZ, WHO WAS MISTREATED BY THE TWO WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED TO A HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. THE TWO OFFICER, ONE A CHAUFFEUR, TOOK A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE TO THE HOSPITAL AND ARE CHARGED WITH MISTREATMENT OF MS. MARTINEZ ENROUTE.

(B) ON JUNE 27 LA NACION REPORTED THAT A POLICE OFFICER, LUIS MARCOS MINCOFF, WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON IN CORDOBA FOR AN AUGUST 1978 INCIDENT WHERE HE BROKE INTO AND ENTERED A RESIDENCE, MADE THREATS, THREATENED BODILY HARM, ILLEGALLY DEPRIVED A PERSON OF HIS LIBERTY AND WOUNDED THE PERSON. MINCOFF BROKE INTO THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. NIEVES PAREDES DE MONTIEL LOOKING FOR HIS SON, JUAN RAMON; LATER LOCATING THE YOUTH, HE HIT HIM AND THREATENED HIM, AND AT ONE POINT PULLED THE TRIGGER OF HIS REVOLVER, BUT THE GUN DIDN'T FIRE. MONCOFF WAS TRYING TO LOCATE TWO PERSONS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONVICTION OF A POLICE EMPLOYEE THROUGH JUAN RAMON.

12. (U) BOMB EXPLODES IN SANTA FE PROVINCE -----
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THE BUENOS AIRES PRESS REPORTED THAT ON JUNE 27 A BOMB EXPLODED UNDER THE CAR OF A JUDGE IN ROSARIO, SANTA FE PROVINCE, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF SEVERAL ROSARIO POLICEMEN WHO WERE ACCUSED OF BEATING A GROUP OF PRISONERS. THE CAR WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF THE JUDGE'S HOUSE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

13. (U) NORMA KENNEDY TRIED AND RELEASED -----
THE ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTS THAT NORMA KENNEDY, A FORMER PERONIST HEAD OF A SECTION OF A MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE ("MESAS DE TRABAJO PERONISTAS"--A SORT OF STOREFRONT STATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AGENCY), WAS SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON AND PERPETUAL LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS ON CHARGES OF MISUSE OF FUNDS. THE TWO YEAR PRISON SENTENCE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT TIME ALREADY SERVED, AND MS. KENNEDY HAS BEEN ORDERED RELEASED FROM CUSTODY.
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14. (U) FEDERAL POLICE CONDUCTING CENSUS IN BUENOS
AIRES -----

THE JUNE 23RD PRESS REPORTS THAT THE FEDERAL POLICE
HAVE RELEASED A COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT THE POLICE
COMMISSARIATS ARE CONDUCTING A CENSUS OF THE CITY,
HOUSE BY HOUSE, IN ORDER TO BETTER KNOW THEIR DISTRICTS
FOR SECURITY REASONS, TO PREVENT CRIME AND MAINTAIN
PUBLIC ORDER.

(U) EMBASSY COMMENT: THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AFTER
PERSONS IN THE ONCE AREA BECAME SUSPICIOUS AND REPORTED
THE POLICE ACTION TO THE PRESS. WHILE THE REASON FOR
THE CENSUS TAKING IS GIVEN AS A USUAL POLICE FUNCTION,
THE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION SOUGHT, AS WELL AS THE
QUESTIONS BEING ASKED IS UNKNOWN. EMD EMBASSY COMMENT.

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15. (U) TELEVISION INTERFERENCE IN SANTA FE -----
LA PRENSA REPORTED THAT ON SATURDAY THE 23RD, AT 10:30
PM SANTA FE'S CHANNEL 13'S TRANSMISSION WAS INTERRUPTED

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FOR 8 MINUTES. THE INTERRUPTING TRANSMISSION CONSISTE OF A "SUBVERSIVE PROCLAMATION" AND THE PLAYING OF THE PERONIST MARCH. LATER THAT EVENING AT MIDNIGHT A CAR PASSED THE THIRD SECTION POLICE STATION AT A HIGH VELOCITY. THE POLICE GAVE CHASE, BUT THE CAR DISAPPEARED.

16. [REDACTED] 1979 DISAPPEARANCES: RECAPITULATION --
INAMBASSADOR'S CABLE REPORTING HIS JUNE 25 CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL VIOLA (BUENOS AIRES 5172) THE GENERAL ASSERTED THAT THUS FAR IN 1979 HE KNEW OF ONLY 17 REPORTED DISAPPEARANCES. DISCOUNTING A SMALL NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WERE APPARENTLY PICKED UP BY POLICE OR OTHER SECURITY FORCES, INTERROGATED WHILE HELD INCOMMUNICADO, AND THEN WERE SURFACED UNDER PEN OR RELEASED, THE EMBASSY HAS NOW REPORTS OF 25 DISAPPEARANCES DURING 1979, 19 OR 20 OF WHICH CAN BE REGARDED AS FAIRLY CREDIBLY DOCUMENTED. HERE WAS THE PATTERN:
A. JANUARY. THE JANUARY LIST INCLUDES 9 PERSONS ABDUCTED IN MAR DEL PLATA AND STILL NOT SURFACED. (NOTE: IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION VIOLA ADMITTED TO KNOWING OF 6 MAR DEL PLATA ABDUCTIONS. WE CANNOT EXPLAIN THIS DIFFERENCE EXCEPT TO SUGGEST THE GENERAL HAD NOT BEEN FULLY BRIEFED OR THAT 3 PEOPLE ON OUR LIST MAY HAVE ABSENTED THEMSELVES WHEN NEWS OF THEIR PST COMPANIONS' ABDUCTIONS REACHED THEM.) ALL WERE REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OF PARTIDO DE TRABAJADORES SOCIALISTAS. THEY WERE: MANZA, JULIO MARTIRE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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MOLINA, DONALD DAVID
PRADO, ANGEL ALBERTO
RODRIGUEZ, MARIO GERMAN
RODRIGUET, JUAN
ROMOLI, ANA MARIA
SASSO, MARIO
SCHIPANNI DE SASSO, NORMAN
SCIUCA DE RUIZ, PALMIRA
IN ADDITION THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PERONIST BUSINESSMAN ANTONIO HECTOR ABRALES WAS WIDELY PUBLISHED HERE BECAUSE OF HIS PROMINENCE IN BUSINESS AND EARLIER TIES WITH THE PERONIST PARTY. HORACIO AGUILERA'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS ONLY RECENTLY REPORTED IN A LIST

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PUBLISHED BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND WE HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. WE HAVE COUNTED IN THE DISAPPEARED CATEGORY ALSO OSCAR OYARZUN MANZO, A CHILEAN CITIZEN WHO APPARENTLY WAS ABDUCTED ON JANUARY 26 AND WAS FOUND DEAD ON JANUARY 31, IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH CAUSED THE (COMMUNIST LINKED) "LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS" TO PROTEST THE DISAPPEARANCE AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION. THRRSONS WERE APPARENTLY ABDUCTED AND THEN SURFACED; LUSI ALBERTO BARALDI AND GUILLERMO PREZ APPEARED UNDER PEN IN EARLY FEBRUARY IN LA PLATA PRISON; JOURNALIST JORGE FONTVECCHIA SURFACED AND REFUSED TO DISCUSS HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE SEVERAL DAYS HE WAS MISSING. TOTAL: 12
B. FEBRUARY. ONE REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE, THAT OF PARAGUAYAN CITIZEN MARIO RAMIREZ, TURNED OUT TO BE AN ARR T FOR SUBVERSION (SEE BUENOS AIRES 2444).
C. MARCH. DURING MARCH THREE PERSONS WERE REPORTED DISAPPEARED IN TIGRE (EDY BARRIONUEVO, JOSE SOSA AND JORGE ALBERTO STESSER). ALL TURNED UP LOCALLY ARRESTED ON MARCH 29, 1979. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ROBERTO BARREIROS AND HIS WIFE MARIA ROSA CONTINUES TO BE A MYSTERY EVEN THOUGH THE COUPLE HAS REPORTEDLY
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[REDACTED]

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COMMUNICATED WITH MR. BARREIROS' MOTHER. TOTAL: 2
D. APRIL. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JULIO CESAR ABRUZZESE AND THELMA DOROTY JARA DE CABEZAS WERE REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND GROUP OF FRIENDS. THE DISAPPEARANCES OF MARIO MORRERO, JORGE SABADOR GULLO AND ELBIO JOSE RODRIGUEZ WERE REPORTED ONLY IN CABLES FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND HAVE NOT BEEN LOCALLY SUBSTANTIATED. TOTAL: 5 (BUT THE NUMBER IS "SOFT").

E. MAY. THE SIX MAY DISAPPEARANCES (SEE BUENOS AIRES 4082) APPEAR CREDIBLY DOCUMENTED AND HAVE BEEN WIDELY PUBLISHED. THEY ARE:

SNAIDER, JORGE V.
PEREZ BRANCATO, JORGE
MALOSOVSKY, HUGO
BELTONE, NOEMI GRACIELA
PEREZ, CARLOS ALBERTO
SILBER DE PEREZ, MIRTA

F. JUNE. WE HAVE NO REPORT OF DATE OF JUNE DISAPPEARANCES.

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